

## Thoughts On My Sophomore Year

By Markala M.

If all goes as planned, I will be attending the new school as a sophomore next fall. The school year will be very different from what we have grown accustomed to within the last three years. What was taken from us during the tornado is now being given back in an even greater state than it was before. The 2010-2011 school year will be one of many new experiences. With more opportunities than ever, I am looking forward to my sophomore year with great excitement.

The new school will bring a lot of changes, but I am going to make the best out of them. It's going to be quite an advancement leaving the trailers behind next year. It will be a good change, but a drastic one. We will have lockers, we won't walk outside to get from class to class, and noise that weather brings will not be a problem. I admit that I took lockers for granted before we lost them. I never even thought of the difference they make. Having lockers is going to be a great change. Before the first year in the trailers, I remember thinking to myself that it was going to be horrible without lockers. But I have become accustomed to carrying around a backpack full of books. I rarely think of how much easier it would be to have a locker to keep my textbooks and notebooks in. It will take a while to get use to having lockers in the new school next year, but that is one change that I'm sure every student is looking forward to. Another advantage of having the new school will be that we can stay indoors while we go from one class to the next. Every day, as it comes nearer to the end of the class period, all the students begin to put on coats, gloves, and scarves. Bundling up to face the rain, sleet, snow, or wind that we walk through to get to each of our classes is one thing that nobody will miss. In the new school, we can take our coats off and leave them off. No slipping on the icy sidewalks on the

way to lunch for any of us after this year is over. Another thing that took some real getting use to was the noise. When the wind is blowing, the trailers get so loud. When I moved from a FEMA trailer to my new house, the level of noise was so greatly decreased. In the classrooms of the new school, it will be a lot easier for easily distracted students to concentrate. The new school is not just going to be a great building, but it is going to be great to get out of the trailers we have been attending school in for the past two and a half years. One of the best parts is that we will get to share it with other kids in the county.

Although it is not certain, it is very likely that the new school building will serve for the whole county. The number of new students, moving into the 2A division, and possible drama will all be a part of the new school year. I am, as I'm sure other students are, very anxious and excited about this change. Among all three towns, Mullinville, Greensburg, and Haviland, the school will go from 1A to 2A. This change is exciting to me. I have always wanted to go to a school with a larger population. One thing that is not a great advantage is that we may play 11-man football and would have to travel longer distances to away games. Nevertheless, I am excited. I'm always excited to get new students in the school. With two other towns coming to Greensburg, it will be almost overwhelming! I am looking forward to getting to know some students that I have interacted with in sports for many years. Hopefully we will get some kids that aren't only from the county, but from other towns as well. Even though I am excited for this change, I am also anticipating some conflict between the towns. I'm sure that at one time or another there will be a confrontation concerning a problem that one town has with another. I do believe, however, that this will not happen many times at all. All the changes will result in something even better, even the one change I am not quite comfortable with just yet. Changing the school's mascot and colors is not something I am especially looking forward to.

Even with all the excitement that students are feeling for the 2010-2011 school year, there are some issues that some kids are not too thrilled about. Changing the colors, changing the mascot, and getting new uniforms and equipment are a few more changes that will be taking place next school year. The change of the mascot is not something that some people are excited about. Some students are not comfortable with the idea of changing mascots. Most of us have grown up as a Ranger our whole lives. But with the new school comes many other new changes. If we change our mascot, it only makes sense to change our colors as well. It's going to be different cheering for burnt orange and white instead of red and blue. But once again, everything is changing. This is a whole new beginning. The cost of all this changing is something I wonder about. The school will get all new uniforms. We will need to purchase new uniforms for track, basketball, volleyball, tennis, and football. I question how much money will be spent on new uniforms, but I am excited to see how they will look in the new colors.

With all these changes, next year is going to be quite a fun and exciting experience. It is going to be a great year in a brand new school. With all the changes, it may seem a little overwhelming at first, but I think it is an opportunity that we are very lucky to have. All in all, I am excited for my sophomore year in high school.